

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There are provided a method for driving a solid-state image pickup apparatus, a solid-state image pickup device and a camera which enables fast operation and makes applicable of the conventional algorithm in signal processings by reducing the number of samples in the horizontal and vertical directions. Three or more odd number pixels in the solid-state image pickup device (1) are made one block, signal charges of predetermined pixels being thinned out to be transferred to transfer registers (4, 7), resulting signal charges being added within the transfer registers (4, 7) so that the center of gravity of pixels (pixel center) may coincide with a pixel at the center of one block and resulting mixed charge being transferred.

Three transfer electrodes (CR1, CR2, CR3) are provided per one column of the vertical register (4) in a part of the vertical register on the side of horizontal register (7). These three transfer electrodes (CR1, CR2, CR3) are each formed from one layer of three different gate electrode layers. The vertical registers (4) arranged in a three column cycle constitute the solid-state image pickup device.

The camera is constructed to have a switching mode of operation between a mode in which mixed charges that result from adding signal charges in predetermined pixels of one block are output and a normal mode of taking a picture.